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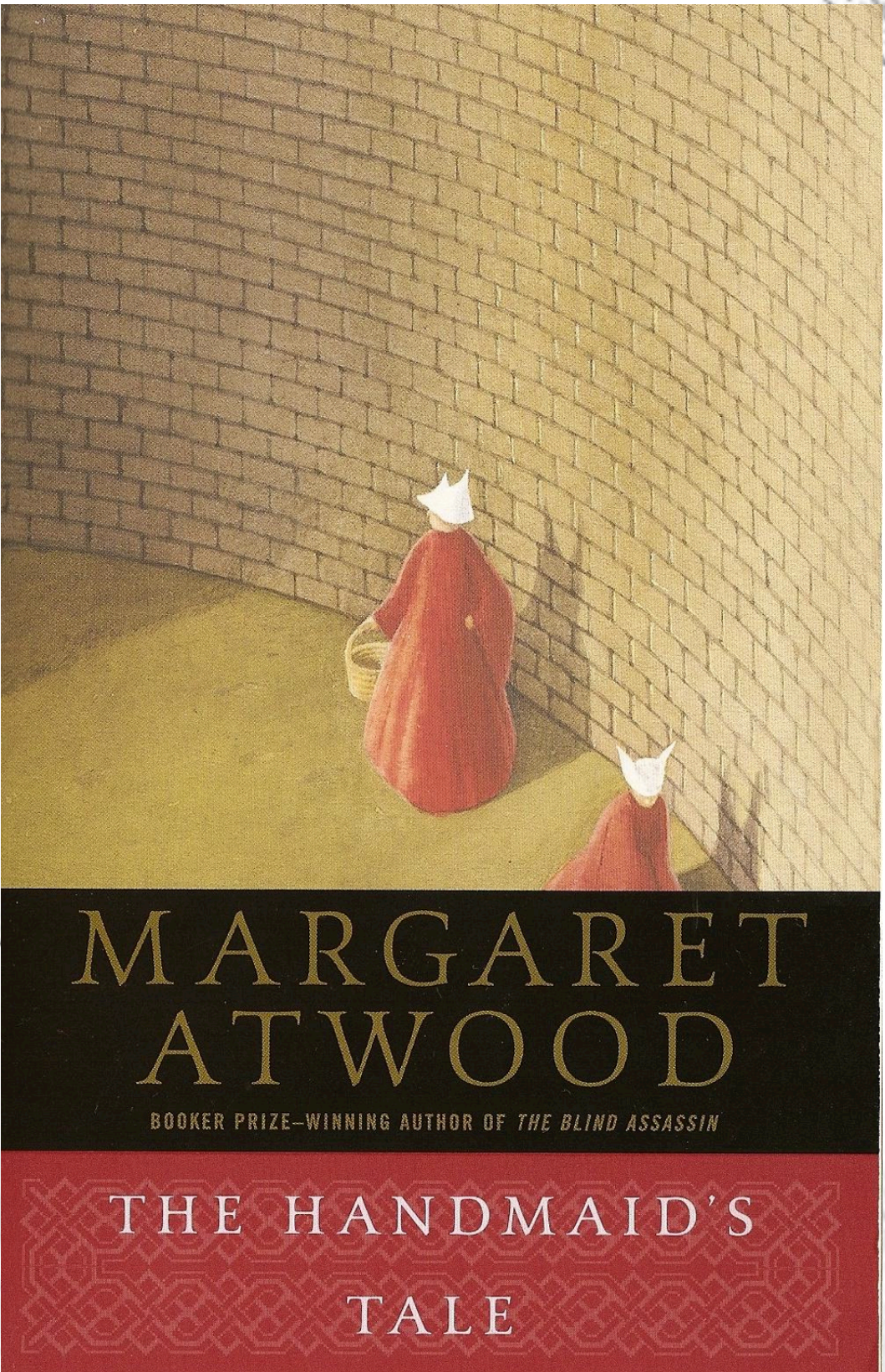
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Our Dystopian World

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Abstract

If we do not heed the warnings in Margaret Atwood’s dystopian novel *the Handmaid’s Tale*, we, similar to handmaids will lose ourselves to society’s conveyor belt: go to school, graduate, attend college, graduate once more, raise a family, and then work away the rest of our lives. Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* acts as an in depth metaphoric replication of modern society. The society in which Offred resides in, through historical events, reasoning, and the decrease in birth rates, the government's action is justified as the people's moral values are suppressed and their rights taken away from them. Likewise, in today's society, we live in a quickly advancing society filled with ever growing technology and capitalism, which forces us into specific roles and rights whether or not we want to be. Similarly, and quite easily, these two contrasting time periods and events form an analogy of each other’s society. We live in a modern day dystopian world.

Key Points

- We find excuses, we deny, pretend it is okay, and continue on the conveyor belt.
- We are given a choice, but the choices we make are predetermined choices. We continue the conveyor belt on one of the given paths.
- We awaken and come to realize the conveyor belt and what it means. Each day becomes a struggle to continue.
- The motives were originally pure, but now that is all that matters. What is the meaning of life anymore?
- We are labeled and classified based off of how far we made it on the conveyor belt.
- To step off of society’s conveyor belt, the awakened ones commit suicide.

Conclusion

Consequently, Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*, serves as a warning. Our society has yet to completely be absorbed by the darkness, but if not careful, the rest of us can cross paths with this darkness just as easily. We are humans. We are alive. We must step off of society’s conveyor belt and take our lives into our own hands. We must seek happiness and spend our youth wisely; instead of focusing solely on achieving a high degree to show our worth to society. Do not let a sheet of paper define who you are and take control of your happiness. The contrasting time periods and events from the world of *The Handmaid’s Tale* serves as a mere in depth metaphoric replications of today’s modern society. Because Offred had found the light in a world of darkness, Offred represents hope. We must awaken and step into the light, just as Offred had, and not the darkness. We can escape this modern day dystopian world.

Future Research Topics

- Suicide rate due to society’s pressures
- Successful attempts stepping off the conveyor belt
- Non-conveyor belt lifestyles
- Whether a conveyor belt lifestyle or a non-conveyor belt lifestyle healthier

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